

WASHINGTON.

The Feeling at the National Capital Regarding the Anti-Catholic Secret Society.

THE SENTIMENT WHICH ORIGINATED IT
The Reverence of the American for the School System.

THE OPPORTUNITY OF DEMAGOGUES.

A Prominent Republican on the Coming Issues and the Third Term.

Democratic Preparations for Retrenchment.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1875.

THE HERALD EXPOSE OF THE SECRET ANTI-CATHOLIC ORDER IN WASHINGTON—WHAT A PROMINENT REPUBLICAN THINKS OF THE SENTIMENT WHICH IT EMBODIES AND OF THE THIRD TERM.

A leading republican, who prefers to have his name unknown, said today, in conversation concerning the anti-Catholic society exposure in the Herald:

"If this society exists, and if it has had its origin in the speech of the President at Des Moines, as some people assert, then he has shown himself one of the shrewdest politicians of the day. The anti-Catholic cry is, of course, nonsense and worse. The Catholics are not formidable in this country, not merely because they lack numbers, but because, with our free institutions, they cannot obtain such an exclusive foothold as they can in most European States except England. But what still further disabuses them is that they are and always have been objects of suspicion here and in England. They are so here not only to the farmers and average citizens, but to many of our most thoughtful men. I remember, directly after the close of the late war, hearing one of the most eminent publicists of the Atlantic States, a man so far from being a religious bigot that he is a Darwinian and disciple of Herbert Spencer, declare his belief that our next war would be caused by Roman Catholic interference."

"But how does this make an anti-Catholic society a shrewd trick now?"

"It appeals to the fears and prejudices, not only of the ignorant, but of many cultivated and enlightened people," he replied. "It adroitly brings up a question which it is not impossible may be made to overhang all others for the next canvass. It is one of the most dangerous tricks which a demagogue ever invented, for, if it becomes a political question, it will overshadow and put aside all others, and it will sweep the country and put off all necessary reforms. I am not, as you know, a third term man. I believe there are very few such, and that if General Grant, imitating the example of General Washington, would make a declaration refusing a third term, there would be no third terms at all the day after it was published, except, perhaps, a few hairbrained Methodist prelates like Bishop Haven and a few unscrupulous negro leaders of the South. I have not the least fear that the Republican Convention will go for a third term. I know dozens of men who would gladly give up their office on that subject because they hold offices, or need patronage, but who would vigorously oppose it in the convention. It is a thing that has no strength in the country, unless a secret political organization can be manipulated for it, and this I doubt. But in any event the danger is great that such a society, if there is one, will be used, as all secret political organizations are, to bring up the most vituperative elements in the party, to which it will turn."

"Do you believe Mr. Blaine is a member of this society, as the Herald reports assert?"

"I do not, and the absurdity of such reports is recognized by those who have watched Blaine and know his proverbial caution in all such matters. He comes, besides, from an old Scotch-Irish Presbyterian stock in Pennsylvania, and that kind of people are not given to sensationalism in either religion or politics." Here he laughed and said, "Blaine's friends have a good joke on him to-day, and I would just as soon tell it to you as not. The Herald says that Cowles, of Cleveland, was in Washington last week and then initiated Blaine. Now this is not true, for he was not here then; but, as it happens, Cowles was in Washington on Monday, and on that evening dined at Blaine's house, in company with Eugene Hale, General Garfield, McPherson and Kasson and several other republicans, who were, no doubt, amazed, and perhaps annoyed, at the Herald's report, which came here yesterday."

"If Blaine is not a member will he deny it?"

"I don't know," was the reply. "I would not if I were charged with it, as I may be to-morrow. In the first place a public man almost always blunders if he denies anything, and then, in my opinion, it will not hurt any of us to be supposed or suspected to belong to such a society, if there is one. Very few people but fools and demagogues will join such a society, because the genius of our people is hostile to such things, and our older politicians know, by a long experience, of how nothingness, how dangerous it is to their personal fortunes, to join such a secret order. The poor Vice President was annoyed last week by the charge that he was a member of a Know Nothing; but I give it to you as my deliberate conviction that nobody will suffer in the esteem of the majority of the American people just now by a charge of being an anti-Catholic. If I were Blaine I would not deny anything. He does not need to."

"Why do you suppose the people so excitable on this subject just now?"

"They have always been excitable on it. They are more so just now because the Roman Catholic press, particularly in the West, has for the last year taken a very positive ground against our common schools. I have been amazed at their folly, for they ought to know that this is one of two subjects on which the people of the Northern States in particular are quite capable of becoming crazy. If any one can persuade our people either that the common schools are in danger, or that the rights of the Southern negroes are in serious danger, he can sweep the whole movement as this and the folly of the Roman Catholic journals I speak of. I thought their sudden outburst unaccountable, until it was suggested to me by a liberal Catholic friend who agrees with me, as I believe almost all thinking Catholics do, that the journals in question were of late controlled or inspired by foreign priests, who, driven out by Bismarck, have been sent here and who do not know the habits of thought of our people and simply follow the policy and manner to which they were accustomed in Germany. They are helping this secret order by what they write. I happen to know that their editorials are carefully prepared by more than one politician for possible future use, and they would make very effective campaign documents, I can tell you. If I were a Roman Catholic writer I would give very shy of the school question, and if I were a democrat I would make haste to adopt Blaine's amendment, or a stronger one if it can be made. If they suppose that, as some demagogues I know mean to do, they will lose the next Presidential election as sure as fate, and they may be the means of giving us a President and administration shamelessly corrupt and ignorant. For if this question comes up the worst demagogue in our party is likely to ride into the White House on it, in my opinion."

"Do you believe General Grant is scheming for a third term?"

"I don't know. But I am not afraid of the third term. There was, I think, danger of it at one time, but the President has offended too many of our prominent men to succeed now if he wants to. Do you really suppose our leading men are a pack of sheep? A good many of them want to live in the White House, and some of them can't afford to wait much longer for their turns. The republican party is remarkably rich in Presidential

timber. Blaine, Fish, Brewster, Washburne, Jewell, Hayes, John Sherman and half a dozen others are perfectly good names to bring before the country. Not one of them would refuse, and not one of them would like to see Grant renominated. On the other hand, the democrats have hardly one candidate free from suspicion of some kind. Bayard is almost the only one. He, and perhaps Koss, are the only men whom they could trot out without an almost predestined defeat."

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1875.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AT THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS—HOW MR. RANDALL PROPOSES TO REDUCE EXPENDITURES.

The Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Randall, visited several of the departments to-day and had consultations in regard to reduction of expenditures. He is fully convinced, after an examination of estimates, that he can save \$40,000,000 annually without detriment to the public service. He proposes to begin with the army and navy, and reduce the cost of each \$10,000,000. To do this he intends to introduce a bill cutting down the army to 10,000 and to make appropriations in accordance with this bill. He expects co-operation in this matter from the republican minority. It is the intention to make this reduction in some manner not yet fully determined, but such as shall cause the least hardship to the officers of both branches of the service. One plan is to place them on the retired list for a certain time; another, to stop all promotion and make no appointments to vacancies. It is possible that employment may be found for a large number of officers in the Indian Bureau if, as is now thought probable, Congress turns that over mainly to the War Department.

In regard to the navy, it is proposed to cut off nearly all the small vessels and a corresponding number of officers and seamen. In this connection it has been ascertained that the sentiment of the committee is decidedly against allowing one dollar of appropriation to cover Secretary Robeson's late extra expenditures, and if he has spent his appropriation without warrant of law, that he must take the consequences.

The cost of the Indian Bureau will be sharply reduced. If it is decided to put the disbursements of annuities and the purchasing and issuing of supplies into the hands of the army, it will be possible to dispense with nearly the whole enormous Indian civil establishment.

A talk with the Commissioner of Pensions revealed the conviction that by a small appropriation for the employment of experts to visit the various agencies and investigate the condition of certain classes of pensioners, the Commissioner believed that from half a million to a million—probably the latter sum—could be struck at once from the rolls. A large saving will be effected in the sum heretofore appropriated for the surveys of public lands.

Mr. Randall is convinced that the expenses of the diplomatic and consular service can be so cut down, as to reduce the annual appropriation from \$1,300,000 to about \$900,000. He regards it as certain that no appropriation whatever will be made for new public buildings; that the annual appropriation for the printing of laws and reports will be reduced to a minimum, and that the idea of checking all further extravagance in their construction.

The River and Harbor bill will be very materially reduced, and little will be given for fortifications.

The contingent fund of all the departments will be cut down more than one-half, and the usual appropriations for furnishing the public buildings throughout the country will be almost wholly denied.

A very large reduction will be made in the cost of the mail service, and the saving here will be chiefly taken from the appropriations for transportation.

Mr. Randall expects full co-operation from the Treasury Department in all efforts for reducing expenses. He says he does not intend to cut down a single dollar where it can be fairly shown that it is absolutely needed for the efficiency of the public service; but every item in excess of this will be altogether eliminated.

THE LAWRENCE SMUGGLING CASE—VERY SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL PIERCEPONT.

In consequence of the action of District Attorney Bliss, of New York, insisting upon trying Lawrence upon the whole nine counts in the indictment, being five counts for offences for which he was not extradited from Great Britain, appeal was made by the counsel for Lawrence to the Attorney General, insisting that definite and peremptory instructions should be immediately forwarded to Mr. Bliss ordering him to try Lawrence for the offences for which he was extradited, and none other. Lawrence, it will be remembered, was extradited for forging and uttering a certain bond and affidavit to secure an entry of goods through the New York Custom House. He was brought from England upon a warrant of extradition issued by the Secretary of State of Great Britain. Upon arraignment before Judge Benedict he refused to plead to five counts in the indictment upon the ground that they were for offences not mentioned in the warrant of extradition. The Judge, however, directed plea of not guilty to be entered on these five counts. Counsel for Lawrence moved to strike out these pleas, upon the ground that the District Attorney had been instructed by the President and Attorney General not to proceed upon the same; but the Judge denied the motion. Bliss insisted that he had received no such instructions, but, on the contrary, he was ordered by the Attorney General to try Lawrence on all nine counts. At-day the Attorney General, in order to settle the matter definitely, and to prevent further avoidance of the instructions of the President and Department of Justice by Mr. Bliss, issued the following pithy communication:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1875.

GEORGE BLISS, Esq., United States Attorney, New York City.

Sir—Application is again made to me in the Lawrence case, with a long record and opinion of Judge Benedict, to have the charge against Lawrence reduced to five counts, and to prevent further avoidance of the instructions of the President and Department of Justice by Mr. Bliss, issued the following pithy communication:

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GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1875.

THE RECENT DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT IN THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD CASE.

It is reliably ascertained that Secretary Bristow has not yet read the opinion of the Supreme Court favorable to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, and therefore has not taken action upon the subject. The report that he has ordered the sum adjudged due to be paid to that company is, therefore, erroneous.

THE FIELD OF BULLION IN NEVADA.

Information has been received by Dr. Linderman, Director of the Mint, to the effect that the Consolidated

Virginia Mine in Nevada has its hoisting apparatus rebuilt and about 600 tons of ore are being raised daily. Of this 300 tons are through the shaft of the Consolidated Virginia Mine, and 100 tons through the shaft of the Gould and Curry Mine. This amount of ore will produce about \$2,000,000 worth of bullion per month. It is being crushed in the different mills on the Carson River, those of the Consolidated Virginia not being completed, though work upon them is being pushed forward rapidly, and they will soon be in working order.

The rate of the gold in California, as well as show upon the market this year, have commenced about a month earlier than usual, which increases the extent of working of the hydraulic placer gold mines in that section, and the prospect is that the yield of bullion will gradually increase for some months to come.

MODIFICATION OF THE ORDER FROM THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT PROHIBITING THE IMPORTATION OF HIDES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

The Secretary of the Treasury has written to the Collector of Customs at New York with regard to the refusal of that officer to allow the entry of certain dry hides alleged to be "Peruvian hides," imported from Great Britain under the department circular, prohibiting the importation of neat cattle and hides of neat cattle from Great Britain. The letter states the circular was issued in consequence of the prevalence of the hoof and mouth disease in that country, and was intended to prevent the introduction of the disease into the United States by imports of cattle and hides which might be infected, but was not intended to prohibit the importation of hides imported into Great Britain from other countries and exported thence to the United States. If the Collector is satisfied that the hides in question are Peruvian hides he is authorized to allow the entry thereof.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MAILS FROM NEW YORK.

The Postmaster General to-day authorized the United States mails to be carried on the new line of St. Jago and Cienfuegos, Cuba, commencing December 30, by the steamer Liberty, and monthly thereafter, the compensation to be the sea postage as in all other cases.

The department gives notice that as no steamer of the Inman or White Star lines is to leave New York on the 25th inst., the mails for Europe on that day will be despatched by the steamship Elysia, of the Anchor Line, which, for their quick delivery, will stop at Queenstown.

THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE SECOND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE.

The commission to investigate the affairs of the Second Comptroller's office, in connection with the Suggs and Winokow cases, have completed the hearing of evidence, and the report is now being prepared for transmission to the Secretary. The members of the commission are entirely reticent concerning whatever conclusions have been reached. Great interest is felt in the report, as involving the transaction of business in the office of the Second Comptroller, and will probably reach the Secretary early next week.

THE TRANSPORTATION OF UNAPPRAISED MERCHANDISE—INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

The following circular has been addressed to collectors of customs with regard to transportation of unappraised merchandise:

"It appearing from evidence before this department that there is some lack of uniformity at the several ports in the practice relating to the importation of unappraised merchandise, and that further instructions upon the subject are necessary, the department has concluded to prescribe the following regulations, which will be strictly observed by the collectors of customs."

First.—The transfer of all such merchandise at the port of arrival for delivery to the carriers, and at the port of destination to the appraiser's store for examination, shall be made under the supervision of the collector of customs, and he shall be held responsible for the same.

Second.—The bill of lading should in all cases be transmitted by mail with the immediate transportation entry invoice and manifest, or if such bill of lading relates to more than one shipment, or embrace goods consigned to more than one carrier, the bill of lading should be transmitted by mail with the invoice and manifest, and the bill of lading should be retained in the original bill of lading necessary to enable the officer at the port of arrival to properly estimate the duties legally accruing on such merchandise.

Third.—An inspection by the department of entries and accompanying documents gathered at different points, shows that the duties on goods imported are levied at the port of destination of such charges as commissions as under the law the duties. The attention of the officers at these points is hereby called to the subject, and they are enjoined to exercise the greater care to comply strictly with the law relating to the duties on goods imported, and to collect all duties on commissions and charges.

Fourth.—In preparing separate manifests in triplicate for each bill of lading, the collector of customs should observe the instructions of articles 636 and 679 of the Department Regulations of 1874, which, in some instances, require the collector of customs to prepare a separate manifest for each bill of lading, and to forward the same to the collector of customs at the port of destination.

Fifth.—To prevent the inconvenience to the government and to the importer incident to the arrival at the port of destination of a portion only of a consignment, the collector of customs should be careful to forward at one time all goods embraced in one invoice and entry.

Sixth.—Inasmuch as the transportation of unappraised merchandise for convenience of importers, under even the best rules, must be necessarily attended with some degree of care, and the collector of customs are directed to carefully comply with all the regulations upon the subject now in force, and to require vigilance on the part of their subordinates in preventing any infraction thereof.

DOM PEDRO.

HIS BRAZILIAN MAJESTY'S PREPARATIONS FOR HIS VISIT TO AMERICA—THE IMPERIAL PAINT TO COME DIRECT TO NEW YORK.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov. 16, 1875.

The Journal do Comercio, of this city, which is usually well posted, said, a few days ago, that their Majesties the Emperor and Empress would go to the United States by England, as the New York packet service is an end. To-day, however, I am able to say that their Majesties are arranging to go direct, by the firm of Norton, Megaw & Yule, of this city, agents of the Lamport & Holt line of Liverpool steamers, having informed the Emperor that they are prepared to take one of their finest steamers at his disposal, to take him to New York direct, at any date he chooses to visit the United States, and to return to Brazil in April, upon which they may expect their Majesties to arrive.

Viscount Bom Preito, Viscount de Nioa and Dr. Souza Froute have been already appointed members of the small suite which will accompany them.

THE COMING VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY TO THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1875.

Information has been received in Washington that the Emperor of Brazil will leave that country, probably in April, for the United States. He will travel as a private gentleman, as he did four years ago in England, without any distinction as to his rank, and will not only attend

but will travel over much of our country, for pleasure and instruction. The Emperor's daughter, the Princess Isabel, will act as regent during his absence. No more favorable time could be selected for the visit, as Brazil is in an entirely peaceful condition, with no apprehension whatever of public disturbance. The recent success of the Emperor's arms in the war with Paraguay, who were more than a year ago subdued and imprisoned for alleged State offences, has had a good effect upon the peace of mind of the people, and the first nations to accept the invitation to be represented at the Centennial Exhibition. The sum of \$50,000 was appropriated by that government, which will have a small building on the grounds for the display in a creditable manner of some of the natural products of that country.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 22, 1875.

Commander Alfred Hopkins is ordered to command the Wyandotte; Assistant Paymaster Reah Frazer is ordered to the Catskill; Chief Engineer William G. Buchler to special duty at New York, in connection with the construction of machinery; Chief Engineer H. F. Babbitt to the Vandalia; Captain J. C. P. De Kramf is detached from the navy yard at League Island, on the 31st inst., and placed on waiting orders; Commander Henry H. Maudslayi from the command of the Wyandotte and placed on waiting orders; Assistant Paymaster Z. T. Brown from the Catskill and placed on waiting orders.

THE BATTLE OF TRENTON.

TRENTON, Dec. 22, 1875.

The Committee of Arrangements for the celebration of the battle of Trenton on Monday next, held another meeting last evening, when a committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Freese, Eton and Taylor, for the purpose of securing an orator to wind up the celebration by an oration in the evening. It was decided not to have any cannon in the celebration, as the celebration is to be a purely patriotic one, and it is expected that 1,000 "troops" will be in line, and that the sham battle will be one of the best displays of that kind ever given in this country. There is a warm interest manifested in the success of the undertaking, and it is predicted that the event will attract to the city thousands of visitors.

THE DYNAMITE ASSASSIN.

WHO WAS HE WHEN IN LIFE?—HAS HIS IDENTITY BEEN ESTABLISHED?—CURIOUS INCIDENTS OF BLOCKADE RUNNING DURING THE WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

From the editorials and communications in the Herald I am led to believe that Thompson, alias Thomas, alias Thomassen, is or was a person whose identity is not yet fully established. The writer was in Dresden during the winter of 1869-70. The American Club was then in its second year, and one of its chief supporters and leading members was "Father Thomas," a short, thick set, genial person, with full red beard. He lived well, entertained handsomely and was regarded by the resident Americans as a liberal gentleman. No subscription for the relief of the poor was made in Dresden, and one instance of a young American ladies started a school which proved unsuccessful. He called upon them, handed them \$1,000 to furnish their rooms and commence again, saying that if successful they could repay him and if not they should not regard it as a debt.

"Father" Thomas told the writer that he was in the Confederate service during the entire war, first as a blockade runner, then as a soldier in Lee's army and afterward again a blockade runner. His last service was as a caterer to Lee's army when it should arrive in Philadelphia. He received instructions from the government to go to Nassau, N. Y., then to New York, and make arrangements for Lee in his Northern march. For this purpose he received \$25,000 and \$35,000. In due time he arrived at Philadelphia and awaited Lee's advance. The battle of Gettysburg convinced him that the rebellion was doomed, and he fled to the North was prosperous while the South was bankrupt. As he had lost about \$1,000 in the Confederate service he thought it was not robbery to repay himself in the best way he could. He therefore came to New York and asked the advice of a prominent banker, who told him to invest in anything United States government bonds. He further inquired he sold his bill of \$35,000 and bought United States securities and sailed for Europe. Upon the interest of United States bonds he informed me he was then living.

One day Commodore Worden was in the club, when "Father" Thomas said to him: "Commodore, you ruined Lee's army. The Tennessee, which was the name of the blockade runner, was loaded with cotton in Mobile Harbor, ready to run out by the first opportunity; you kept that street, and the cotton was your mortal wound, and it killed him, which destroyed the whole cause. Half that cotton was mine." The Commodore listened attentively and then responded: "Commodore, I catch you in such a company again I should take as much pleasure in putting a bullet through your heart as I did in putting that cotton in the Tennessee."

Thomas straightened himself, and throwing open his coat, said: "Commodore, if you ever do I shall threaten you my razor tooth and tell you to fire, for I should deserve it, then, as I now deserve it for what I have already done. I am a thoroughly reconstructed rebel."

Mr. Curtin was then the United States Minister at St. Petersburg. His family were spending the winter in Dresden, and he came down and remained there several weeks. Just before he left he gave a dinner to the "rebels." At this dinner "Father" Thomas was seated on ex-Governor Curtin's right hand. Mr. Curtin's speech was delivered in one of his humorous moments, in paying a high compliment to the rebels, he proposed the toast of "Our reunited country," and called upon Thomas to reply. Thomas rose, cried like a baby, finally commanded himself, spoke like a man and delivered a most brilliant speech.

The above incidents do not show him to be the devil which the originator of this dynamite plot made as he is a hard to believe that he could be so stupid in six years. Yet, from the descriptions given in the Herald, "Father Thomas" resembles him strongly in everything but character.

AN EPISODE IN THE CAREER OF THOMPSON.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 22, 1875.

William Henry Thompson, made notorious in connection with his attempt to destroy the steamer Mosel at Bremerhaven, came to St. Louis just after the war, and boarded several months at the Southern Hotel. He represented himself to those with whom he became intimate as a blockade runner at Nassau. He kept secluded, and it was understood that he was liable to arrest at any time upon a charge of abetting the enemy as a blockade runner. The property of Thompson, which he had at his disposal, was having deposited in their safe at one time \$75,000 in United States bonds.

In 1866 he went to Highland, Ill., where he spent his time with his family. He met here a Miss Kirtland, a former modiste of St. Louis, with whom he fell in love and married. The couple came to St. Louis and lived in a comfortable style, but suddenly disappeared, and no one knows where.

THE RAILROAD WAR.

THE POSITION OF THE VANDERBILT ROADS—WHAT THE MANAGERS SAY ABOUT IT.

Yesterday there was a continuation of the excitement in railroad and mercantile circles in regard to the hostilities recently inaugurated by the trunk lines, which has resulted in reducing the rates of freights to the West. The Cheap Transportation Association, it seems, has endeavored to represent the merchants of New York, and not only in its own meetings, but in conference with the Chamber of Commerce, the speakers have placed the chief odium of the high freight charges upon the New York Central Railroad and its managers. This position was most especially pronounced yesterday, when the Erie Railroad seemed to put forward an effort to rescue the merchants from high freight charges and was the first to reduce its rates to the level of the trunk lines. A meeting of railroad freight agents was held at the Erie offices on Tuesday, and that Messrs. Blanchard and Ward, on the part of the Erie Railroad, met Messrs. Rutter and Crawford, of the New York Central, as well as Mr. Gosler, representing the Pennsylvania Railroad; but it was not true that Erie had assumed the rôle of a public benefactor, for, as it will appear, negotiations had been in progress between the Central and Grand Trunk roads for some time, and the decision arrived at by the meeting was a foregone conclusion from the position assumed by the latter road and its branches.

The complaints, it will be remembered, have been that New York railroads were discriminating against this city in freights to Chicago, and that contracts could be secured from Boston, via the Grand Trunk road, on better terms than by any New York line. In order to ascertain from headquarters on what basis the discrimination rested, a Herald reporter yesterday called at the residence of Commodore Vanderbilt, President of the New York Central road, but was refused admittance, and was told that the Commodore was in his office in the Grand Central depot.

MR. VANDERBILT'S STATEMENT.

I have not seen the Herald exactly how the matter stands. The Grand Trunk and the Vermont Central have for a long time been charging for freight to the West, and the Grand Trunk has been the most oppressive. This difference has been accorded to by the trunk lines—Baltimore and Ohio, Pennsylvania Central and New York Central—on account of the fact that they have a longer gauge from the other trunk lines and had to carry 150 miles further. Now that they have altered their gauge and other things are equal, we are not to be discriminated against. The matter is graphed to the officers in regard to the matter, and received a response from Governor Smith, representing the Vermont Central, that they were willing to come to an understanding with the Erie, but that they were in fact, given them a drawback of ten cents per 100 on freights.

The schedule is now as follows:—

City.	First Class.	Second Class.	Third Class.	Fourth Class.	Special.
Chicago, Ill.	30	25	20	15	30
Cincinnati, Ohio	30	25	20	15	30
Cairo, Ill.	30	25	20	15	30
Columbus, Ohio	30	25	20	15	30
Dayton, Ohio	30	25	20	15	30
Evansville, Ind.	30	25	20	15	30
Fort Wayne, Ind.	30	25	20	15	30
Indianapolis, Ind.	30	25	20	15	30
Keokuk, Iowa	30	25	20	15	30
Kansas City, Mo.	30	25	20	15	30
Kalamazoo, Mich.	30	25	20	15	30
Louisville, Ky.	30	25	20	15	30
Lansing, Mich.	30	25	20	15	30
Marquette, Mich.	30	25	20	15	30
Memphis, Tenn.	30	25	20	15	30
Mobile, Ala.	30	25	20	15	30
Montgomery, Ala.	30	25	20	15	30
Newark, Ohio	30	25	20	15	30
Pittsburg, Pa.	30	25	20	15	30
Portland, Me.	30	25	20	15	30
Richmond, Ind.	30	25	20	15	30
St. Louis, Mo.	30	25	20	15	30
Terre Haute, Ind.	30	25	20	15	30
Zanesville, Ohio	30	25	20	15	30

So far from the Erie Railroad being the champion of the merchants' rights in this matter I would say that the proposition from that company was to fix the rate to Chicago at fifty cents. I said "no." The rates were to be fixed at the rate of the trunk lines, and they may be fixed. Any reports in regard to the meeting and any sentiment endeavored to be manufactured by the trunk lines, or any other party, in connection with the matter, is a breach of faith, and as to the second to be a shallow scheme to build up credit and popularity. The New York Cheap Transportation Association is a mere sham.

BEY THIS ROAD IF THEY WANT IT.

We will sell it cheaper than they can build it. As to

their double track freight railroad to the West, it seems to be gammon. I am willing to meet the merchants of New York to-morrow, and always will meet them on questions properly relating to the interests and trade of this city, but will have nothing to do with the men who are running those associations and have read to grind in the difficulties with the Grand Trunk road I offered to leave the matters in dispute to Charles Francis Adams, the Railroad Commissioner of Massachusetts, and Colonel Thomas Scott, with one other gentleman; but this was proposed and was not accepted. My opinion is that the other side will get tired first in this disagreement.

THE HIRSCH CUSTOM HOUSE FRAUDS.

The problem was hotly discussed in the Custom House yesterday whether Mr. Hirsch, of Market Street, Philadelphia, recently a passenger by the steamship Russia, can be tried for perjury, he having sworn to an affidavit or declaration that all the dutiable goods in his baggage were two pieces of silk worth 250 francs, while in reality he had \$5,000 worth of dutiable goods. Mr. Crockett, well known counsel, was engaged yesterday by Hirsch's brother, a live merchant, of No. 78 Wooster street, to protect his brother's interests. The following is the law bearing on the facts, as explained to a Herald reporter by Deputy Collector Phelps (section 5,892, United States Revised Statutes, chapter 4):—

Every person who having taken an oath before a competent tribunal, officer or person in any case in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered, that he will testify, declare, depose, certify truly, or that any written testimony, declaration, deposition or certificate by him deposed, sworn, declared, deposed, certified or made, is false or untrue, and who makes, swears, declares, deposes, certifies or makes the same, shall be deemed to have committed an offense against the laws of the United States, and shall be liable to prosecution therefor.